

Remarks

Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Final Office Action of the Examiner mailed September 12, 2006 and the Advisory Action of the Examiner mailed January 10, 2007. Currently, claims 47-56 remain pending of which claims 47-56 have been rejected. In this amendment, claims 47, 49, and 54 have been amended and claims 57-59 have been newly added. Favorable consideration of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

In paragraph 1 of the Final Office Action, claims 47, 48, 50, 52, 53 and 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Goldenberg et al., (U.S. Patent No. 5,352,198). Applicants must respectfully traverse this rejection.

Turning to claim 47, which has been amended to recite:

47. (Currently Amended) A monolithic catheter hub comprising:
a proximal hub portion;
a distal strain relief portion; and
a lumen extending between the proximal hub portion and the distal strain relief portion, an axis extending down the center of the lumen;
wherein the proximal hub portion and the distal strain relief portion are monolithically molded as a single piece of a single material;
wherein the distal strain relief portion is molded with one or more grooves, the one or more grooves formed along a planes extending at an angle to the axis.

Support for the amendment can be found in Figures 1 and 3 along with the corresponding description. In order for a reference to anticipate a claim, each and every element of the claim must be present in the reference. (See M.P.E.P. §2131). In particular, claim 47 recites, "the distal strain relief portion is molded with one or more grooves, the one or more grooves formed along a planes extending at an angle to the axis". Nowhere does Goldenberg et al. appear to disclose such grooves. As such, Goldenberg et al. cannot anticipate claim 47 as amended. Therefore, amended claim 47 is believed to be allowable over Goldenberg et al. and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection. For similar reasons, as well as others, claims 48, 50, 52, and 53, which depend from

claim 47 and include significant additional limitations, are believed to be allowable over Goldenberg et al. and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Turning to claim 54, which recites:

54. (Previously Presented) A catheter comprising:
a monolithic hub comprising:
a proximal hub portion;
a distal strain relief portion; and
a lumen extending between the proximal hub portion and the distal strain relief portion, an axis extending down the center of the lumen; and
a catheter tube having a proximal portion and a distal portion, the proximal portion disposed within the lumen;
wherein the monolithic hub is monolithically molded as a single piece of a single material; and
wherein the distal strain relief portion is molded with one or more grooves, the one or more grooves formed along planes extending at an angle to the axis.

Nowhere in the Final Office Action was claim 54 rejected under prior art. Accordingly, Applicant believes that the lack of a rejection indicates that claim 54 is allowable and Applicant requests notice of allowance in due course.

With respect to claim 56, for similar reasons discussed above, as well as others, claim 56, which depends from claim 54 and includes significant additional limitations, is believed to be allowable over Goldenberg et al. and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

In paragraph 2 of the Final Office Action, claims 49 and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldenberg et al. as modified by Wijkamp et al., (U.S. Patent No. 5,167,647). Applicant must respectfully traverse this rejection. As discussed previously, Goldenberg et al. does not appear to anticipate claim 47, which claims 49 and 51 depend. Furthermore, Wijkamp et al. does not appear remedy the shortcomings of Goldenberg et al. with respect to claim 47. Moreover, it appears as though the ridges 8 and grooves 7 of Wijkamp et al. are formed longitudinally (see column 2, lines 60-61). These grooves would not be formed along a plane that is at an angle with respect to an axis running down the center of a lumen of the hub; rather, these grooves appear to be formed along a plane that is parallel with such an axis. As such, the

combination of Goldenberg et al. and Wijkamp et al. does not appear to disclose each and every element of independent claim 47. As such, claims 49 and 51, which depend from claim 47 are believed to be allowable over Goldenberg et al. in view of Wijkamp et al. and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

In paragraph 3 of the Final Office Action, claim 55 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldenberg et al. as modified by Bartholomew (U.S. Patent No. 4,802,947). For similar reasons discussed above, as well as others, Goldenberg et al. does not appear to disclose each and every element of claim 54. In addition, Bartholomew does not appear to remedy the shortcomings of Goldenberg et al. As such, for at least these reasons, claim 55, which depends from claim 54 and includes significant additional limitations, is believed to be allowable over Goldenberg et al. in view of Bartholomew and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, all pending claims, namely claims 47-59, are believed to be in a condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is anticipated. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

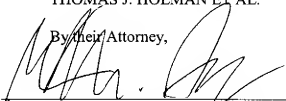
Respectfully submitted,

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By their Attorney,

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